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Bangalore Mirror

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CHILD IN PERIL

No respite in crime against children, of 2,726 cases, most this year also under POCSO Act

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TREES CHOKED

BBMP's road dept spoils its forest department's work by slathering concrete around saplings

PAGE 4

Lack of planned spaces for parking is making motorists park wherever they see a spot, ignoring inconvenience caused and safety risks due to blocking home entrances or roads

NO PARKING IN FRONT OF GATE

Traffic police plan to fine owners, auction off unclaimed vehicles

| Sridhar Vivan & Ahna Prakash
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

More than 100 houses on Fifth Cross Road, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, T Dasarahalli, were without drinking water for two days. When residents contacted the BWSSB, they were shocked to learn that the water supply had been halted because a car was parked on top of the water diversion valve, blocking it temporarily. The BWSSB staff tried unsuccessfully to locate the car's driver, but no one knew who it was. After two days, the driver moved the car, allowing the valve to be accessed and the water supply to resume.

This incident highlights a broader issue in Bengaluru, where vehicles parked on the road create significant problems. Many residents report cars blocking their gates or obstructing the road, with no way to find the owners. As a result, the police have decided to take action against such vehicles.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"Our city planners need to incorporate adequate parking solutions into new developments and retrofit existing neighborhoods to accommodate the growing number of vehicles. Multi-level parking facilities and park-and-ride schemes could be viable options — John D'Souza, resident, Kamaraj Road

85% of city prone to flooding

Major portion of city is paved leading to low infiltration rate of rainwater

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Nearly 30% of Bengaluru faces high risk of flooding, 57% of the city is under moderate flood risk and only 13% is under low flood risk, according to a geospatial study conducted by a team of researchers. The study highlights that change in land use is the most important factor leading to the havoc.

The assessment results show that over 635 sq km of Bengaluru urban district is prone to high flood hazard, 287 sq km comes under low vulnerable zone and the remaining nearly 1251 sq km faces moderate flood hazard.

The most affected areas under high flood vulnerability include built-up and agri-croplands. While nearly 43 % of the built-up area in the city is under high flood risk, around 32% of agricultural land faces this risk.

"The study indicates that more than 85% of the city is vulnerable to flooding. This is mainly because the major portion of the city is paved leading to a low infiltration rate of rainwater," noted the study conducted by researchers from the National Institute of Technology, Mangalore, and Manipal Academy of Higher Education.

Researchers have underlined that cities' rapid urbanisation and unplanned expansion have increased flooding. This transformation has led to the conversion of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Move towards 'zero-waste' campuses in city

Initiative targets all police stations in city, private/govt schools & offices in Yelahanka

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In a groundbreaking move towards sustainability, all police stations in the city will soon transition to zero-waste campuses. This initiative, Swachha Belaku, aims to establish efficient waste management systems across all divisional police stations. Deputy Commissioner of Police, K Santosh Babu, IPS, expressed full support for the initiative, emphasising the provision of necessary infrastructure and contacts to ensure the project's success.

The campaign will see a strict prohibition on single-use items within police offices, fostering a more eco-friendly environment. The project builds on previous efforts by Swachha Belaku, who has recently raised awareness at the RK Hegdenagar police quarters. Their approach includes planning sustainable waste management systems and introducing user fees per household to support the initiative financially. "Following up with residents to implement the plan has shown promising results," Babu noted.

Extending the move to schools

Swachha Belaku's efforts extend beyond police stations. They are actively working towards creating zero-waste campuses in government and private schools, offices, and research institutes in the Yelahanka area. This initiative, backed by Social Venture Partners India and implemented by Vedan Trust, has seen significant progress. Colleges such as MAHE, Sheshadripuram College, Presidency, IIHR, GKVK campus, and police quarters in Yelahanka will also be part of the project. The initiative focuses on minimising the generation of wet and dry waste within the campus, segregating refuse, and exploring opportunities for reuse, recycling, regeneration through composting, and other sustainable methods.

Padmashree Balaram, Lead, Swachha Belaku, said, "One of the companies has contributed through its CSR activities, funding infrastructure for scientific waste segregation in 100 government schools. By promoting awareness, Swachha Belaku aims to instill sustainable practices in schools, which students can also adopt at home. Furthermore, segregated waste from schools can be sold for recycling, generating funds to hire housekeeping staff and maintain cleanliness. We will connect bulk waste generators directly with recyclers for dry waste and other appropriate channels for wet waste. This reduces unsightly black spots and promotes a cleaner environment. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has been supporting this programme completely." The initiative will kick off with over 10 government schools during the vacation period, with awareness programmes starting on June 15. The transformation of police stations into zero-waste campuses marks a significant step towards a sustainable future, setting a precedent for other institutions to follow.

File photo of waste segregation awareness drive in schools in B'luru

Naeem Momin, KAS, joint commissioner, Yelahanka Zone, BBMP, said, "We discovered that many educational institutions classified as bulk waste generators struggle with waste management due to a lack of knowledge and awareness, often resorting to burning or mixing waste. These institutions have requested assistance in establishing proper waste management systems. In response, we launched the Zero Waste Campus initiative for schools and colleges in the Yelahanka zone. A zero-waste campus doesn't mean generating no waste or being entirely plastic-free. Instead, it aims to eliminate single-use items as per the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016, ensure proper segregation of wet, dry, and reject waste into the appropriate bins, and direct them to their respective processing facilities."

Newton Public School is the first school in the Yelahanka zone to be declared the Zero Waste Campus. They banned all single-use plastics, followed the 7R rule: rethink, refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, recycle, and rot, and incorporated scientific segregation of waste on their campus.

1,702 students graduated from BMS College of Engineering, Bengaluru; among them, 69 are top rank holders

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BMS College of Engineering, an autonomous institute affiliated to VTU, celebrated a monumental day as 1702 students, among them 69 top rank holders, graduated in a grand ceremony. Presided over by Dr. P Dayanand Pai, Life Trustee of BMSET and Chairman of the Board of Governors at BMSCE, the event was graced by esteemed chief guest Dr. Vidyashankar S, Honorable Vice Chancellor of Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belgavi and Guest of Honor Sri. Aviram Sharma, Chairman BMSIT&M and Trustee BMSET.

The graduation ceremony was a momentous occasion, marking the awarding of degree certificates to the autonomous batch of engineering (UG&PG), MCA, and MBA graduates of 2023.

Dr. P Dayanand Pai, in his address, underscored the importance of holistic education and character development in shaping the future of engineering and technology. He said, "Today's graduates represent the vanguards of innovation and progress. A holistic approach to education includes the growth of critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and ethical principles in addition to technical abilities. Students must use these knowledge and experience for the benefit of humanity. This is in line with the concept of engineering for social good, which is the use of cutting-edge technology to address pressing societal problems and promote sustainable development."

Reflecting on the significance of the occasion and congratulating the graduates, Dr. S. Muralidhara, Principal of BMS College of Engineering, said, "At BMSCE, we strive not only to impart technical knowledge but also to instill values that mold well-rounded individuals capable of confronting real-world challenges. I am delighted to witness the achievements of so many students and extend my heartfelt congratulations to them as they embark on their future journeys. Moreover, I commend the exceptional dedication and academic excellence demonstrated by our 69 top rank holders, exemplifying our institution's unwavering commitment to educational excellence."

The ceremony served as a poignant reminder of the transformative power of education in nurturing future leaders and professionals dedicated to making a positive impact on society. As graduates embark on their respective journeys, they carry with them the values and knowledge instilled by their alma mater, poised to drive change and innovation in their chosen fields.

Aviram Sharma, Chairman BMSIT&M and Trustee BMSET honouring a student

AI to be used to reduce risk of heart disease

Wipro announced a partnership with the Centre for Brain Research (CBR) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru to develop a personal care engine to reduce and manage the risk of cardiovascular disease by utilising artificial intelligence (AI), the company informed the exchange in its filing.

The company announcing the partnership on Tuesday informed that the collaboration will develop new technologies for the prevention and management of long-term health disorders and provide precision support for these diseases. They highlighted that the personal care engine will focus on reducing and managing the risk of cardiovascular disease and correlated neurodegenerative disorders by using AI to personalise its interaction with users, optimising for their long-term health and wellbeing. Wipro will test the engine through a digital app-based trial in collaboration with CBR at IISc.

Wipro says that this partnership will focus on harnessing the power of AI, machine learning, and big data analytics to develop these technologies. "We are delighted to be partnering with the CBR and IISc on this journey. Our personal care engine enables wide-ranging applications and benefits for health management. It has the potential to mitigate lifestyle-related conditions and even enhance cognitive and psychosocial functioning," said Subha Tatavarti, Chief Technology Officer, Wipro Limited. – ANI

3 THINGS TO DO

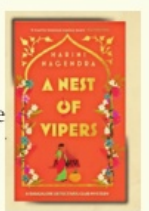
01 Cartoon art

The Indian Institute of Cartoonists is organising an exhibition of cartoons by Dave Brown, an eminent British cartoonist for The Independent, London. He is particularly known for his series 'Rogues' Gallery' which appears in The Independent's Saturday edition. Satirising a current news story, these cartoons also pastiche famous paintings and appear within a mock gold frame. His cartoons have won him numerous prestigious awards. **Where: Indian Cartoon Gallery, Midford Garden Road; When: June 1 to 15, 10 am to 6 pm**

02 Traditional performances

Get ready to witness a rare presentation of 'Talamaddale' by the team led by Diwakar Hegde Kerehonda and 'Mohiniyattam' by Veena, Dhanya and team. The event is presented as a part of 'Vasanthotsava 2024,' a week-long cultural festival themed on the spring. **Where: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road; When: May 29, 6 pm**

03 Read on



Join in for the book launch of Harini Nagendra's latest book in The Bangalore Detective Series, 'A Nest of Vipers'. The Bangalore Detectives Club was her first crime fiction novel. The sequel, Murder Under a Red Moon, was published in 2023. Following the launch, Harini will be in conversation with Suresh Jayaram from 1 Shanti Road Studio. **Where: Champaca Bookstore; When: May 31, 6 pm**

Childhood in peril: No respite from crimes against children

2,726 cases reported so far this year; maximum of which are crimes under POCSO Act

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In the first four months of 2024, Karnataka has witnessed a disturbing surge in crimes against children, with a total of 2,726 cases reported.

According to the data by the Karnataka State Police, a significant portion of these crimes fall under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, with 1,238 cases. The police recorded 55 cases under the Juvenile Justice Act.

Child labour, despite rigorous laws against it, continues to persist with 26 cases reported under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, recorded 49 cases, indicating that the practice of child marriage, though illegal, still exists.

The data also highlighted that kidnapping and abduction of children represent one of the most alarming categories, with 1,317 cases. Among these, four cases were for ransom. There were no reported cases of kidnapping for begging, immoral purposes, theft, or removal from lawful guardianship.

"There are multiple laws in India to prevent children from becoming victims of crime, but they are not very effective. The POCSO law is very strict and has a 100 percent conviction rate, yet the number of cases has not decreased.

The main problem is the lack of knowledge and awareness. Children are being sexualised, used for pornography, and child marriages, although banned, still occur. We don't need more laws; we need awareness and education," said advocate Supriya Mehta.

Other concerning figures in the police data include, the police recorded 18 cases under exposure and abandonment under Section 317 of the IPC.

Remarkably, there were no reported cases of infanticide/foeticide (Sections 315 & 316 IPC), rape of minors, selling of girls for prostitution (Section 372 IPC), or offences under the Probation of Offenders Act.

The data reveals that while some categories of crimes are not prevalent, others are alarmingly high. The significant number of cases under the POCSO Act and kidnapping/abduction necessitate immediate and concerted efforts from law enforcement, policymakers, and society at large.

BM Education

UGC tells universities to take steps to end caste discrimination on campus

The University Grants Commission has asked varsities and colleges to take measures to prevent discrimination based on caste. In a latest directive, UGC said, "We have been actively implementing measures to prevent caste-based discrimination in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Over the years, the UGC has issued numerous instructions and guidelines to address this critical issue.

Officials and faculty members should refrain from any form of discrimination against SC/ST students based on their social origin. Universities, institutes, and colleges are instructed to create a dedicated page on their websites for lodging complaints of caste discrimination by SC/ST/OBC students. Additionally, a complaint register should be maintained in the Registrar or Principal's office. Prompt action must be taken against any officials or faculty members found guilty of such discrimination."

Furthermore, universities and their constituent and affiliated colleges must ensure that no official or faculty member engages in discrimination against any community or category of students. A committee should be constituted to address complaints of discrimination from SC/ST/OBC students, teachers, and non-teaching staff, including members from the categories.

"Officials and faculty members are urged to handle incidents of caste discrimination with sensitivity..."

Reacting to this, a professor said, "Preventing caste-based discrimination in HEIs is vital for fostering an inclusive and equitable academic environment. Such discrimination not only undermines the affected students' mental and emotional well-being but also hampers their academic performance and future opportunities. By addressing and eliminating caste-based biases, HEIs can ensure that all students, regardless of their social background, have equal access to educational resources, support, and opportunities."

Professors say that compliance with UGC guidelines and the active prevention of caste-based discrimination are critical for upholding the integrity and reputation of educational institutions. "HEIs are not just centers of learning; they are also seen as moral and ethical leaders in society. Ensuring that these institutions adhere to principles of fairness and non-discrimination enhances their credibility and trustworthiness. This not only attracts a more diverse student body but also strengthens the institution's position in national and international academic rankings," added another professor.

—BMB

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Concrete chokes trees & saplings in Malleswaram

While BBMP's forest department plants trees, its major roads department leaves no space for them to grow into trees while upgrading the footpath

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Saplings and trees in Malleswaram's 15th Cross are facing an unnatural demise due to a lack of coordination and awareness among departments within the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). While the BBMP Forest Department has been actively planting saplings in available spaces, the major roads department has simultaneously been concreting footpaths, disregarding the presence of these saplings and trees. This conflicting approach is endangering the greenery in the area, highlighting a critical need for better inter-departmental coordination.

The upgraded footpath on 15th Cross in Malleswaram was poorly supervised, leaving saplings and mature plants at risk of premature death due to inadequate space for rainwater percolation.

Proper space around plants is essential for survival, especially during the monsoon. This oversight highlights the need for better coordination and planning to protect the area's greenery.

Vijay Nishanth, known as the Tree Doctor, criticised the BBMP Forest and Major Roads Departments for hindering sapling growth by covering their base with concrete. He urged the Forest Department to issue notices to those responsible for this harmful practice.

"It is nothing but the killing of saplings. How do they expect those saplings to grow into trees in such an environment? The authorities concerned have to take measures to ensure the growth of saplings into trees by ensuring sufficient space for the percolation of rainwater," he said. He further emphasised the urgent need to educate engineers and contractors on the importance of leaving space around saplings on footpaths.

Concrete encroachment around trees and saplings hindering rainwater percolation

> **"It is nothing but the killing of saplings. How do they expect those saplings to grow into trees in such an environment?**
> – Vijay Nishanth, tree doctor

Citizens and environmentalists have criticised the BBMP Forest Department authorities for not caring for the saplings they planted. "It has become a habit for the BBMP Forest Department to plant saplings merely for the sake of it. The BBMP officials are interested in making money by organising programmes for planting saplings. They are not bothered whether such saplings will survive or not," said Abhishek P, a citizen.

BBMP Deputy Range Forest Officer (West), Shivaram, suggested that locals might have chosen to surround the saplings with cement for reasons known only to them.

"I will inspect the spot on Monday and take measures to remove concrete around the saplings, ensuring the proper percolation of rainwater during the monsoon. I will issue notices to those responsible for putting the concrete around those saplings," the DRFO said.

Kothanur lake faces monsoon drainage nightmare

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Citizens and lake walkers of Kothanur Lake in South Bengaluru are expressing concern over the waterbody's unpreparedness to handle rainfall runoff this monsoon season. Despite pre-monsoon showers passing, the drains within the watershed are clogged with silt and debris, hindering the flow of rainwater into the lake. "Monsoon is just around the corner and the drains in Kothanur's watershed area are full of silt and trash. Solid waste of all kinds is visible within the drains, which serve as the sole channel for rainwater," said a local of the area.

Locals say while they have been reaching out to the authorities for the last several days to get the drains cleared, there has been no response from any quarters. "We have reached out to multiple government agencies such as BBMP, BWSSB, and KSPCB to ensure the drains in the area are properly cleaned and are free of silt. However, none of the agencies have been responsive. We have only received false assurances. None of the departments understand the importance of keeping stormwater drains clean. Despite multiple agencies involved and responsible for ensuring the good health of water bodies, the majority of the lakes are ailing," said Raghavendra B Pachhapur, a city-based lake activist and citizen of the area.

Some also highlighted the bad state of the lake's wetland. According to the walkers, Kothanur's wetland has turned red due to unchecked entry of sewage. "There is no mechanism to understand if the water entering the wetland is clean or raw sewage. BWSSB, despite multiple complaints raised, has still not discovered the source of eutrophication of the wetland," said Pachhapur. According to lake experts and activists in the city, the situation is more or less the same in the majority of the water bodies in Bengaluru. "This summer was a good opportunity for BBMP's lake department to clear many lake beds. The Scorching heat and below-average rainfall last year had led to many lakes in the city drying up with lake beds exposed. Proper cleaning could have ensured effective groundwater recharge if the accumulated sewage sludge had been addressed. However, we missed the opportunity," said a city-based lake expert.

Overhead view of the lake revealing silt and debris

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Wire hazard
Chickpet

A hanging wire in DK Lane, Chickpet, is causing inconvenience to pedestrians and motorists. These wires, mostly associated with WiFi connections, pose a hazard when broken, and responsibility for their removal is often unclear, leaving their status uncertain.

Sewage overflow
VV Puram

Sewage overflow between R V Road and Middle School Road is causing a foul smell around houses 17 to 24. The issue arises from old sewage line connections from both R V Road commercial buildings and about 10 houses on Middle School Road.

Neglected overbridge
Kalyan Nagar

The foot overbridge in Kalyan Nagar has been neglected for several years, with certain sections missing due to theft and overall uncleanliness, posing a hazard to pedestrians.

Your Chance to win today
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Theft suspects caught, properties recovered

In a series of successful operations, Bengaluru police have apprehended multiple suspects involved in thefts across the city, resulting in the recovery of significant amounts of stolen property.

Two people linked to a series of two-wheeler thefts were arrested by the Girinagar police. Police have successfully recovered 11 stolen two-wheelers valued at Rs 7,00,000, according to the Bengaluru Commissioner of Police.

In another operation, Siddhapur Police apprehended a suspect connected to a mobile phone theft ring and recovered 32 stolen mobile devices valued at Rs 19,50,000. However, three other culprits remain at large, and a search is currently underway.

Meanwhile, Basavanagudi Police arrested a suspect involved in a series of burglaries and two-wheeler thefts and recovered 75 grammes of gold ornaments, 4.9 kilogrammes of silver articles, a digital locker, and three two-wheelers. The total value of the recovered items is estimated at Rs 8, 70,000. -BMB

'No driving centres can issue driving licences'

Transport department refutes claims on 'issuing of DLs outside RTO'

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Contrary to expectations, driving licences will not be issued by any driving schools, and citizens won't be able to get a license without appearing for an RTO test in Karnataka. Regarding the news about the same in the media, the Karnataka transport department has refuted the claims that driving licences will be issued without an RTO test as per the new Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) guidelines and any circulars citing the imposition of this rule or its applicability from June 1.

However, officials said that there is a provision in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989 (CMRV) that allows accredited driving training centres to issue a certificate after passing several requirements. However, the transport department highlighted that there are no such accredited driving training centres in the entirety of Karnataka. Hence, currently, it's not possible to apply the rule in Karnataka.

As per Rule 31 of CMRV 1989, "The driving schools run by a State Transport Undertaking or an Industrial Training Institute set up by the Central Government or any State Government and other establishments run by the Central Government or a State Government that have facilities for imparting training for drivers shall be authorised to issue driving certificates in Form 5, subject to the condition that the training imparted in these schools shall be according to the syllabus referred to in Rule 31."

As per transport officials, there are a lot of prerequisites that are needed for an accredited driving training centre.

> **Only accredited centres can issue DL certificates. There are no such training centres in entirety of Karnataka** -Officials

These centres are required to have at least one acre of land for running the training track and ensure that the training has been conducted for 29 days. If the candidate fulfils all the requirements at the centre, the training centre may issue a certificate. The RTO will further verify if the requirements stated have been fulfilled and honour the certificate. In such cases, a person might not be required to get a driving licence. However, transport officials mull if a certificate alone is enough to authorise someone to drive on the road.

As per the rules, the training centre will be required to have land and an adequate parking area for the vehicles meant to be used for imparting instructions in driving, two classrooms with teaching aids like computers and a multimedia projector for holding theory classes on traffic rules and regulations, driving procedures, vehicle mechanism, public relations, and first aid; a simulator(s) for both classes of vehicles (light and heavy motor vehicles); broadband connectivity; driving tracks; vehicles for training with dual control except in case of two-wheelers; workshop along with exhibits; biometric attendance system, qualified instructors, e-payment, real-time evaluation, online evaluation process and adequate staff resources in each category (teaching and cleaning staff, IT personnel, etc).

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Stop the flyover, build the metro, say experts

Ejipura Flyover construction stalled yet again, public mobility advocates call for metro line between Byappanahalli and Silk Board for improved city mobility

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Ejipura Flyover construction abandoned midway

Work om the three-kilometre Ejipura Flyover has been crawling along for the past seven years. So much so that Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on his Bengaluru city round recently, instructed the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to issue a notice to the contractor or terminate the tender if needed. According to the BBMP, only 4 per cent of the work has been completed over the past six months. City-based public mobility proponents now say it is an opportunity to lay the 'ill-conceived project' to rest. This has also led to an online petition addressed to decision-makers to replace the stalled flyover with a metro line between Byappanahalli and Silk Board.

Public mobility experts say a metro line will transport people in a more environmentally friendly manner, reduce private vehicle use, reduce pollution, and improve mobility across the city more sustainably. The flyover would do the opposite—promote more vehicle use, cause more congestion points, increase noise and air pollution, and prevent better mobility overall. "The project is flawed, ill-advised, detrimental to the overall mobility of the city, and destructive for the environment. It is a blessing in disguise that the project has been delayed so long. This allows the Government to reconsider and scrap the project. Instead, Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) should be asked to build a new Metro line between the existing Purple and Yellow lines. This, at present, is a gaping hole in the Namma Metro network," said a city-based public mobility expert.

Experts say the project goes against urban planning and transport planning principles. It violates planning laws and High Court orders, which mandate that projects must be part of the master plan issued by the Metropolitan Planning Committee. "Neither the state Government nor the BBMP is a competent authority to plan or execute an infrastructure project in the city. Mobility solutions should come as part of the Metropolitan Planning Committee's Transport Plan as prescribed under the 74th amendment of the Constitution," said Sandeep Anirudhan, convenor of Bengaluru Mobility and Citizens' Agenda for Bengaluru.

> **"It is a blessing in disguise that the project has been delayed so long. This allows the Government to reconsider and scrap the project**
> – City-based public mobility expert

Experts also opine that the Ejipura flyover project would not only promote more vehicular traffic but also pose a block to the development of a future metro line in the corridor. It will only encourage people to use private vehicles and add to the traffic congestion.

"To spend so much public exchequer money on a detrimental project such as a flyover and to block the possibility of a mass transit corridor is a huge crime against the city. The flyover, if constructed, will rob the opportunity for Indiranagar and Koramangala to have a mass rapid transit corridor which can decongest traffic and give people a quicker and better option," added Anirudhan.

Animal Husbandry trouble: Substandard medicines withdrawn

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

It seems there is no end to mistakes in the Health Department and the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services. A few days ago, seven medicines with the wrong labels pasted were withdrawn by the Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Limited. Now, the Director of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences has issued a circular directing the Deputy Director (Administration) of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences to withdraw Enrofloxacin 10 per cent injection from veterinary hospitals in the 31 districts of Karnataka.

The circular issued on May 23 stated that the Deputy Drug Controller of Belagavi District had submitted a report indicating that the Enrofloxacin 10 per cent injection supplied by SVP Life Sciences is not of standard quality. "I want you to direct assistant directors of animal husbandry and veterinary sciences to test the quality of Enrofloxacin 10 per cent injection if they have stock of the same and submit a report. The department has imposed a penalty of 0.5 per cent of the total amount on SVP Life Sciences for supplying substandard medicines and also directed them to replace the stock with new medicines," said the Director in the circular.

When contacted, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences Director Dr. Manjunath Palegar said that the department has been withdrawing substandard medicines all these years. "We have decided to withdraw Enrofloxacin 10 per cent injection based on the report submitted by the Belagavi District Deputy Drug Controller," said Dr Manjunath Palegar.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

However, animal activists are up in arms over accepting substandard medicines, thus ruining the health of animals in the state. "Enrofloxacin is a synthetic antibacterial agent from the class of fluoroquinolone carboxylic acid derivatives. It has antibacterial activity against a broad spectrum of gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria," said an animal activist.

He said the Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences should be held responsible for procuring such substandard medicines. "I suspect that rampant corruption among the officials is the main cause for the supply of substandard medicines. I do not understand the logic behind the delay in issuing the circular to withdraw the Enrofloxacin 10 per cent injection after six days. The Deputy Drug Controller of Belagavi District submitted the report on May 18, but the Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences issued a circular on May 23 to withdraw the substandard injection," said another animal activist on condition of anonymity.

IIHR showcases diverse jackfruit, banana, mango

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The Indian Institute of Horticulture and Research (IIHR) is set to host the Triphal Diversity Show 2024, an event showcasing three major fruit crops: jackfruit, banana, and mango. Scheduled to take place from May 31 to June 2, the show will feature over 300 unique mango genotypes, 100 jackfruit genotypes, and 100 banana genotypes. Alongside these diverse varieties, various products and technologies related to the cultivation of these crops will be displayed.

Dr Selvarajan, Director of ICAR NRCB in Tiruchirapalli, shared insights into the banana showcase, emphasising the extensive variety being presented. "We are going to showcase 100 distinct varieties being maintained in our field gene bank, explored across India, including the NEH states," he said. Among these are eight GI-tagged varieties such as Nanjangud Rasabale, Kamalapur Red Banana, Matti, Virupakshi, Sirumalai Hill Bananas, Myndoli from Goa, and Jalgaon Banana.

The exhibition will also highlight bananas with unique nutritional profiles and flavours. Carotenoid-rich bananas and the Kaveri (Pisang Lilin) banana, which has a low glycemic index suitable for diabetics, will be featured. Dr Selvarajan noted, "We have fragrant and aromatic bananas emitting floral smells, vanilla flavours, and the ice cream banana. Bananas emitting the fragrance of the Manoranjitham flower upon ripening will also be displayed."

> **"We are going to showcase 100 distinct varieties being maintained in our field gene bank, explored across India**
> – Dr Selvarajan, Director, ICAR NRCB, Tiruchirapalli

One of the standout exhibits includes an exotic banana variety currently under evaluation for its fruit quality and nutrition. This variety contains nearly 2,000 micrograms of nutrients per 100 grams of fruit, comparable to Nendran bananas. It has a taste similar to the Grand Naine banana and boasts an impressive shelf life. Additionally, the Pisang Lilin, also known as the Crocodile Finger Banana, has a glycemic index of just 50-55, making it a suitable option for diabetic patients. The Triphal Diversity Show aims to promote the cultivation of diverse fruit varieties, ultimately enhancing farmers' livelihoods by creating awareness among various stakeholders, including self-help groups, farmers, processors, exporters, traders, and policymakers. By showcasing these diverse crops and associated technologies, the event seeks to foster a greater understanding of the benefits of cultivating a wide range of fruit varieties.

This platform not only celebrates the rich diversity of jackfruit, banana, and mango but also provides an opportunity for networking and knowledge sharing among the agricultural community, stated the experts.

Animal Welfare Board's letter on ABC scheme 'uncalled for'

Activists say board ignoring big picture by focusing on unrecognised birth control programmes

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A stray dog tries to escape unwanted attention at an event in the city (file photo)

A letter by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) regarding complaints against the animal birth control programme conducted by NGOs in the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) area has left animal welfare workers in the city fuming.

The letter states that the NGOs carrying out Animal Birth Control (ABC) programmes in the city in association with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike are doing so without recognition by the Board. "Street dogs in the city suffer intensely due to long-distance travel for surgery under stressful conditions. As per Animal Birth Control Rule, 2023, project recognition for ABC is mandatory before conducting the animal birth control programme. Given the above, BBMP is supposed to stop the ABC programme and cancel the tenders awarded to the NGOs," said the letter issued by AWBI.

City-based animal welfare workers say the central body should refrain from knee-jerk reactions and look at the big picture. They opine that 'no ABC' is seldom the option as it is a public programme that is done keeping in mind the welfare of both stray dogs and humans. "BBMP and AWBI must have a dialogue and constantly strive towards improvement of the programme. AWBI should focus on the quality of the programme through regular periodic checks. The focus must be improvement and continuity," said Harini Raghavan of Citizens for Animal Birth Control.

Experts highlight that AWBI's delay in the re-certification process has been the major cause of concern that has paralysed ABC/ARV. A delay from AWBI in approvals means more dogs, more cruelty, and many more such issues. They opine the board must act swiftly in re-certifying the NGOs. "AWBI appears to be bothered about their not applying for project recognition or re-recognition, instead of focusing on the quality of ABC/ARV. BBMP has specifically approached the board regarding microchipping, a useful step that would ensure the tracking of strays and prevent relocation. AWBI did not respond then but is quick to order stoppage. BBMP is among the few municipalities to implement an ARV programme and has ensured that the street dog population reduces year after year. We recorded zero deaths due to rabies

> **"The board must focus on safe ABC, certify more partners, and support Bengaluru, which is one of the most kind cities in the country** –Priya Chetty Rajagopal

last year. Stopping the programme would be akin to throwing the baby out with the bathwater," said Nandita Subba Rao, a city-based animal welfare worker.

Experts say while there are deficiencies in infrastructure and skilled personnel at some of the centres, such as Mahadevapura and Bommanahalli zones, it is a work in progress.

"While AWBI has an important role to play in ensuring the quality of the programme, they are being diluted by red tape. The board must focus on safe ABC, certify more partners, and support Bengaluru, which is one of the most kind and compassionate cities in the country. Animal welfare workers and activists need to work together and make sure that common goals are achieved. We all want the quality of work and infrastructure at ABC centres to improve, but it is a work in progress and it is possible only if we work together," said Priya Chetty Rajagopal, another animal welfare worker and trustee of CJ Memorial Trust.

'Reinstate safai karmcharis of DRDO'

The Karnataka State Commission for Safai Karamcharis (KSCSK) has written to the social welfare department pointing to breach of its order regarding reinstatement of safai karamcharis of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) last week alleged that 61 safai karamcharis have been refused employment by the DRDO's Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS) for speaking up against extortion by their contractor. The women are from Dalit and other marginalised communities who have worked continuously for upto 10-15 years but are guised as contract workers.

Works stage a protest against being removed from service

"From 2019 onwards, the sham contractors used to deposit the wages of the workers to their account and demanded the workers to pay over Rs 3,000 monthly cash to the supervisors, who said that the amount would be paid to both the agency and CABS. When they spoke up, they were victimised and harassed. The amount being extorted by the agency increased from Rs 3,000 to 4,200 from each worker each month," said an AICCTU statement. It noted that workers had approached the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) in October 2023, leading to the amount being stopped from being collected. However, when the workers reached their workplace on April 23, they were denied entry and told that they were terminated as a new contractor was brought in place of their old contractor. "Out of the 77 workers, only 16 workers who had not demanded their rights and had continued to pay the extorted amount were allowed inside," AICCTU said.

> **Trade union alleges 61 workers fired for speaking up against extortion by their contractor**

After this development, a complaint was opened by the workers before the Karnataka State Commission for Safai Karamcharis (KSCSK) by AICCTU. A meeting was soon held, where CABS representatives told KSCSK that they had no objections to the workers being hired on work again. While the workers were to be reinstated from May 9, they have not been taken back to service. The AICCTU has been demanding reinstatement of the workers, criminal and disciplinary action in respect of the acts of extortion and return of amounts, and dignified working conditions for the workers. —BMB

IN BRIEF

HC lets 5% cap on cab service charge stay

Citizens who use auto aggregator applications can breathe a sigh of relief since the High Court of Karnataka has dismissed petitions filed by Ola and Uber against the cap of five percent set on the service charge levied.

While the court is yet to release the entire order, on May 27, Justice Suraj Govindaraj said, "The writ petitions stand dismissed. It is, however, made clear that the aggregators would be entitled to collect service charges of up to five percent in addition to the fixed fare." The court has dismissed the petitions filed by Uber India Systems Pvt Ltd, the operator of Uber, and ANI Technologies Pvt Ltd, which operates Ola.

In November 2022, the transport department put out a notification capping the service charge levied by auto aggregator applications at five percent along with a five percent GST charge. It had also made clear that the base fare to be charged for auto rickshaws was Rs 30. The notification came after commuters began to severely criticise auto aggregator applications for setting the base fare at Rs 100 in October

> **Petition filed by cab aggregators against cap on service charge levied has been dismissed**

2022. The base fare prior to the new notification was Rs 33. The two ride aggregators, Ola and Uber, then challenged the notification in the High Court. As an interim measure, in October the High Court decided to set a convenience fee at 10 percent. Following this, in November, the transport department had issued the notification capping the service charge at five percent.

The aggregators argued that the capping of the service charge was contrary to the law. It also sought directions from the court, for the government to set fare for auto rickshaws that function through aggregator applications across the state. "This should be done after properly considering and qualitatively assessing the relevant factors and, importantly, adhering to the Motor Vehicles Aggregator Guidelines-2020 framed by the central government," the petitioner said. The aggregator also wanted to be allowed to levy a service fee of 20 percent and to increase the base fare up to double the amount. On the other hand, the government argues that the service provided by the aggregator was similar to contract carriages, allowing them to regulate it keeping in mind the interest of the larger public. —BMB

No parking on roads!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

DCP South Traffic, Shiva Prakash Devaraju, told Mirror, "We've noticed a problem with people parking their vehicles in front of others' houses and leaving them there for extended periods.

We're conducting a drive to address this issue and have already taken action against numerous vehicles. If the owners come forward to claim their vehicles, we file a case. If the vehicles remain unclaimed, we proceed to auction them with the court's permission."

Residents across various neighbourhoods in the city have expressed concerns over the problem of illegal parking, particularly when vehicles are parked in front of their houses. "Every day, we face the same problem. People park their cars right in front of our gates, and sometimes it's impossible to get our own vehicles out.

It's not just about the inconvenience – it's also about the safety and security of our homes. In an emergency, such as a fire or medical situation, blocked access could have severe consequences," said Subramanya L, a resident of Malleswaram.

Narrow lanes

Emergency services, including ambulances and fire trucks, often find it difficult to navigate through narrow streets clogged with parked vehicles. This poses a risk to the safety of residents and highlights the need for effective solutions.

Residents have suggested possible solutions to address the issue. One commonly proposed measure is the implementation of stricter enforcement of parking regulations.

"We need more frequent patrolling by traffic police and stricter penalties for illegal parking. If people know that their cars will be towed or they will be slapped with a hefty fine, they might think twice before parking irresponsibly.

Another potential solution is the establishment of designated parking zones. We need clearly marked parking spaces and signs indicating where parking is allowed and where it isn't. If we can create more off-street parking areas and encourage their use, it will help alleviate the pressure on residential streets," said Mohammed Azmath, a resident of Fraser Town.

Citizens also advocate for better urban planning and infrastructure development. The city's rapid growth has outpaced its infrastructure, leading to a shortage of parking spaces. "Our city planners need to incorporate adequate parking solutions into new developments and retrofit existing neighborhoods to accommodate the growing number of vehicles.

Multi-level parking facilities and park-and-ride schemes could be viable options. Community awareness and cooperation are equally important. Educating residents about the impact of illegal parking and encouraging considerate behaviour can go a long way. We need to foster a sense of community responsibility.

Residents should understand that their actions affect their neighbors and work together to find mutually beneficial solutions," said John D'Souza, a resident of Kamaraj Road.

Seize and desist

Traffic officers are planning to seize vehicles left abandoned on footpaths for more than three days.

According to the police, 132 abandoned vehicles have been identified across 13 traffic police station limits, with four-wheelers (82) being the most common, followed by 32 two-wheelers and 10 auto-rickshaws.

Of these, 113 vehicles have been either disposed of or returned to their owners, two vehicles are currently at the police station, and 21 have been sent to the Mallasandra yard.

Loss of vegetation leads to rainfall runoff

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

many permeable surfaces into impermeable ones. Consequently, even short periods of rainfall can result in significant flooding, especially in low-lying areas. The concentration of people and valuable assets in cities means that even minor floods can cause considerable damage.

Other than changes in land use patterns and an increase in the built-up space, researchers have taken into account various other factors for the identification of flood-vulnerable zones. These include rainfall, distance to drainage channels, topography (elevation and slope), groundwater table depth, soil type, and drainage system.

Experts also highlight urbanisation-induced loss of green cover as an important factor leading to flooding events. As the city continues to grow, lots of trees are being axed leading to large impervious areas.

"Change from previous to impervious nature results in a loss of interception and depression storage, a decrease in the potential infiltration, and a redirection of principal flow paths. Loss of vegetation and drop in the number of trees leads to a large quantity of rainfall-runoff even during short and low-intensity rainfall," noted the study.

The study was published in the Journal of Landscape Ecology.

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I,SHRINY JOHANNA D/O Jayasheela Kumar T, R/a No.34, 4th Blk, 2nd Mn, 5th Crs, Munishwara Layout, Doddabommasandra, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru 560097.Have Changed My Name To J SHRINY JOHANNA.Vide Afft Date:27/5/2024.Sworn Before Notary:Devaraj.E

I Ranjini Prashanth W/o Prashanth Periyapatna Narasimha Murthy R/o #68, Vishna Priya,Swagath Sandesh Apt, 1st Main Bhavaninagar Railway Layout, Ullal Main Rd,B'luru-560056 have changed my name to Ranjini Ramanath for all Purposes

I Karunakara Rao Karle Kumble S/O, Bhaskar Kumble Also Known As K.baskara R/o N0-324/9,sri Devi Nivas,4th Cross,patel Road, Bahubali Nagar,jalahalli,bengaluru-560013 have changed my name to Karunakar Rao Karle Kumble.

I Prajuna Pullambil Cherammal W/o, Prasanth Kulatham Kuzea R/o No 706, ground Floor, 5th Main, Hal 3rd Stage, New Thippasandra Post, Bengaluru 560075 have changed my name to Prajina Pullambil Cherammal for all purposes.

I Prasanth Kulatham Kuzeal S/o Kumaran R/o No 706, Ground Floor,5th Main,Hal 3rd Stage, New Thippasandra Post, Bengaluru 560075 have changed my name to Prashanth Kulatham Kuzeal for all purposes

I, Bheemasen changed my name to Bheemsen Desai vide affidavit dated 27-05-2024 Sworn before notary Deepa M B'lore - 26.

I, Savitri Boral, W/o Nagesh Jutoor, R/o #202, BM Luxuria, 24th Main, 25th A cross, Parangipalaya, Sec-2, HSR Layout, Bangalore-560102 have changed my name from Savitri ManikRao Boral to Savitri Boral.

I, Kamalesh S/o Kishor Kumar R/o No.302, 2nd floor, 2nd C main, Koramangala 8th block, Bengaluru -560095 have changed my name to Kamalesh K Jain affidavit Dt.28/05/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Adhit Thomas Cherian S/O, Rashmi Vittal have changed my name to Adhit Cherian vide affidavit dated 27-05-2024 (sworn before notary Bangalore No. 1351)

I, Soumya, R/o #305, Block 8, Suncity Apartments, Sarjapura Ring Road, Iblur Village, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560102, have changed my name to Soumya Gargave

I Abrar Ul Huq Kaleemullabaig S/O, Kaleemulla Baig R/o No 218 14th A Cross 2nd Block Rt Nagar Bengaluru have changed my name to Abrar Ul Huq.

I Praveen Kumari Bekal Panduranga W/O, Karunakar Rao.k.k R/o N0-324/9,sri Devi Nivas,4th Cross,patel Road, Bahubali Nagar, jalahalli,bengaluru-560013 have changed my name to Praveena Kumari Bekal Prabhakar.

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SWEET NOTION

No, sugar doesn't make your kids hyperactive

It's a Saturday afternoon at a kids' birthday party. Hordes of children are swarming between the spread of birthday treats and party games. Half-eaten cupcakes, biscuits and lollies litter the floor, and the kids seem to have gained superhuman speed and bounce-off-the-wall energy. But is sugar to blame?

The belief that eating sugary foods and drinks leads to hyperactivity has steadfastly persisted for decades. And parents have curtailed their children's intake accordingly.

Balanced nutrition is critical during childhood. As a neuroscientist who has studied the negative effects of high sugar "junk food" diets on brain function, I can confidently say excessive sugar consumption does not have benefits to the young mind. In fact, neuroimaging studies show the brains of children who eat more processed snack foods are smaller in volume, particularly in the frontal cortices, than those of children who eat a more healthful diet.

But today's scientific evidence does not support the claim that sugar makes kids hyperactive.

The hyperactivity myth

Sugar is a rapid source of fuel for the body. The myth of sugar-induced hyperactivity can be traced to a handful of studies conducted in the 1970s and early 1980s. These were focused on the Feingold Diet as a treatment for what we now call Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), a neurodivergent profile where problems with inattention and/or hyperactivity and impulsivity can negatively affect school, work or relationships.

Devised by American paediatric allergist Benjamin Feingold, the diet is extremely restrictive. Artificial colours, sweeteners (including sugar) and flavourings, salicylates including aspirin, and three preservatives (butylated hydroxyanisole, butylated hydroxytoluene, and tert-Butrylhdryquinone) are eliminated.

Salicylates occur naturally in many healthy foods, including apples, berries, tomatoes, broccoli, cucumbers, capsicums, nuts, seeds, spices and some grains. So, as well as eliminating processed foods containing artificial colours, flavours, preservatives and sweeteners, the Feingold diet eliminates many nutritious foods helpful for healthy development.

However, Feingold believed avoiding these ingredients improved focus and behaviour. He conducted some small studies, which he claimed showed a large proportion of hyperactive children responded favourably to his diet.

Flawed by design

The methods used in the studies were flawed, particularly with respect to adequate control groups (who did not restrict foods) and failed to establish a causal link between sugar consumption and hyperactive behaviour.

Subsequent studies suggested less than 2 per cent responded to restrictions rather than Feingold's claimed 75 per cent. But the idea still took hold in the public consciousness and was perpetuated by anecdotal experiences.

Fast forward to the present day. The scientific landscape looks vastly different. Rigorous research conducted by experts has consistently failed to find a connection between sugar and hyperactivity. Numerous placebo-controlled studies have demonstrated sugar does not significantly impact children's behaviour or attention span.

One landmark meta-analysis study, published almost 20 years ago, compared the effects of sugar versus a placebo on children's behaviour across multiple studies. The results were clear: in the vast majority of studies, sugar consumption did not lead to increased hyperactivity or disruptive behaviour.

Subsequent research has reinforced these findings, providing further evidence sugar does not cause hyperactivity in children, even in those diagnosed with ADHD.

While Feingold's original claims were overstated, a small proportion of children do experience allergies to artificial food flavourings and dyes.

Pre-school aged children may be more sensitive to food additives than older children. This is potentially due to their smaller body size, or their still-developing brain and body.

Hooked on dopamine?

Although the link between sugar and hyperactivity is murky at best, there is a proven link between the neurotransmitter dopamine and increased activity.

The brain releases dopamine when a reward is encountered – such as an unexpected sweet treat. A surge of dopamine also invigorates movement – we see this increased activity after taking psychostimulant drugs like amphetamine. The excited behaviour of children towards sugary foods may be attributed to a burst of dopamine released in expectation of a reward, although the level of dopamine release is much less than that of a psychostimulant drug.

Dopamine function is also critically linked to ADHD, which is thought to be due to diminished dopamine receptor function in the brain. Some ADHD treatments such as methylphenidate (labelled Ritalin or Concerta) and lisdexamfetamine (sold as Vyvanse) are also psychostimulants. But in the ADHD brain the increased dopamine from these drugs recalibrates brain function to aid focus and behavioural control.

Why does the myth persist?

The complex interplay between diet, behaviour and societal beliefs endures. Expecting sugar to change your child's behaviour can influence how you interpret what you see. In a study where parents were told their child had either received a sugary drink, or a placebo drink (with a non-sugar sweetener), those parents who expected their child to be hyperactive after having sugar perceived this effect, even when they'd only had the sugar-free placebo.

The allure of a simple explanation – blaming sugar for hyperactivity – can also be appealing in a world filled with many choices and conflicting voices.

Healthy foods, healthy brains

Sugar itself may not make your child hyperactive, but it can affect your child's mental and physical health. Rather than demonising sugar, we should encourage moderation and balanced nutrition, teaching children healthy eating habits and fostering a positive relationship with food.

In both children and adults, the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends limiting free sugar consumption to less than 10 per cent of energy intake, and a reduction to 5 per cent for further health benefits. Free sugars include sugars added to foods during manufacturing, and naturally present sugars in honey, syrups, fruit juices and fruit juice concentrates.

Treating sugary foods as rewards can result in them becoming highly valued by children. Non-sugar rewards also have this effect, so it's a good idea to use stickers, toys or a fun activity as incentives for positive behaviour instead.

While sugar may provide a temporary energy boost, it does not turn children into hyperactive whirlwinds.

(By Amy Reichelt, University of Adelaide, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Workout skincare

Pre-Workout Dos:
Cleanse Your Face – Start your workout with a clean canvas to prevent oil, debris, and sweat from mixing and clogging your pores, which can lead to body acne and breakouts.
Moisturise – Excessive sweating can dehydrate and dry out your skin. To combat this, after cleansing your face, make sure to apply a moisturiser and lip balm, as your lips can often feel dry and chapped post-workout. Opt for a lightweight moisturiser that absorbs quickly. If you have oily skin, choose a gel-based moisturiser for optimal hydration without the heaviness.
Don't Skip The Sun Protection – If you're planning to work out outdoors, make sure to apply (and reapply) sunscreen to all exposed areas of your body. Sun protection is a crucial final step in any skincare routine. Opt for a broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen with SPF 50 and PA+++ to ensure maximum protection against harmful UV rays.

Post-Workout Dos:
Refrain From Touching Your Face – Wash your hands before you touch your face before touching your face so that you don't transfer the dirt and bacteria on to the face.
Take A Shower – As soon as you finish your workout, make sure to take a shower right away. Neglecting to wash off sweat can lead to fungal and bacterial infections, so it's crucial to cleanse your skin as soon as possible. After showering, change into clean clothes to ensure you stay fresh and protect your skin from potential irritations and infections.
Hydration – After your workout, it's essential to focus on rehydration, so applying a good moisturiser is key. Additionally, drink plenty of water to ensure you stay refreshed from within.

—Dr Neha Sharma for Femina

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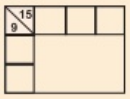
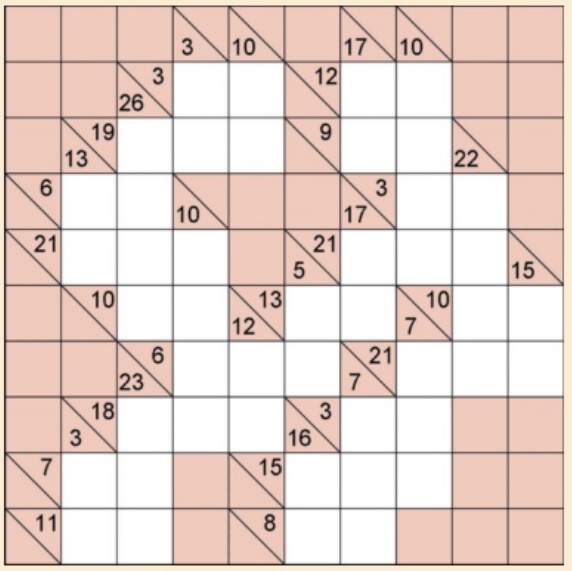
Kakuro

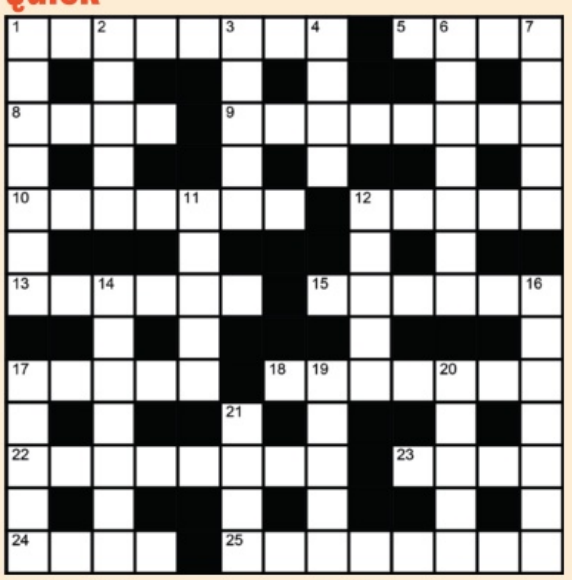


The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Spend wastefully (8)
5 __ __ example (e.g.) (2,2)
8 To go on horseback (4)
9 Gum resin used in perfume (8)
10 Keep on (7)
12 Unfolds, commences (5)
13 Sullies or defiles (6)
15 Affectedly elegant in speech or bearing (2-2-2)
17 ___ Hills: Bangalore's highest point (5)
18 Slow musical movements (7)
22 Divisions in a book (8)
23 Mend with wool (4)
24 Slender bars (4)
25 Bodily (8)

DOWN

1 Abrades; economises or skimps (7)
2 Below (5)
3 Pulls; crawls (5)
4 Mountain goats (4)
6 Actress who passed away in February 2018 (7)
7 Makes small cuts (5)
11 To the interior (5)
12 City in Japan (5)
14 Ungraceful or unpolished (7)
16 2019-20 FA Cup Champions (7)
17 Academy award (5)
19 Not so clean or not so sharp (5)
20 British scientist ____ Newton (5)
21 Gather (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS U

WG XHN RKC VKNUA FHUYFAYB, XHN RKC PHBZ FHUYFAYB.

Linemaro

Where do you hide your halo?

Mindchow

Thunder is impressive, but it's lightning that does the work

Joke of the day

The two most beautiful words in the English language are 'cheque enclosed'

Loop

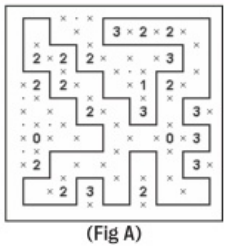
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

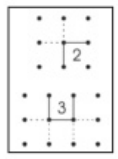
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

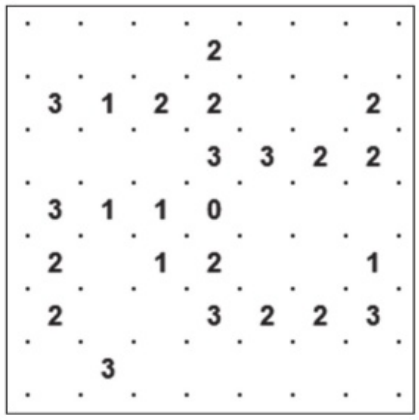
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



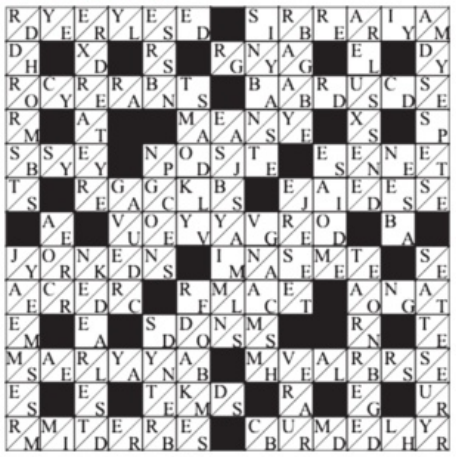
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



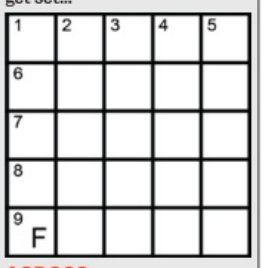
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Map as; 6 Tonne; 7 Ion in; 8 Ma fed; 9 Fake L

DOWN

1 Tiffs; 2 Nepal; 3 Amain; 4 Ken so; 5 Demon

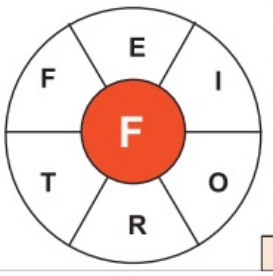
Mensapuzzle

In the two numerical sequences below, one number that appears in the top sequence should appear in the bottom sequence and vice versa. Which two numbers should be changed round?

12, 14, 18, 22, 32, 34, 38

13, 16, 26, 24, 28, 36, 42

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 12 Good; 14 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		5		4				
8	3			7				5
7		4	2					6
					6	5		1
	6		1		7		9	
1		8	3					
5					4	6		8
3				6			2	9
				2		4		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

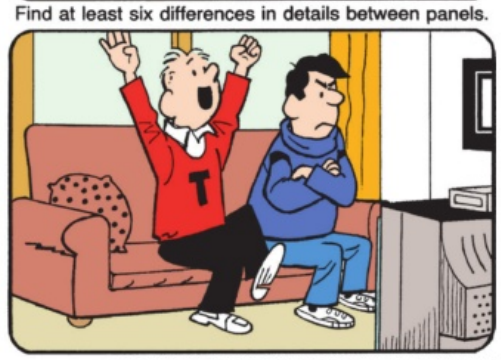
Easy = 18
3 6 7 8

Medium = 30
5 6 9 9

Hard = 5
5 9 9 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



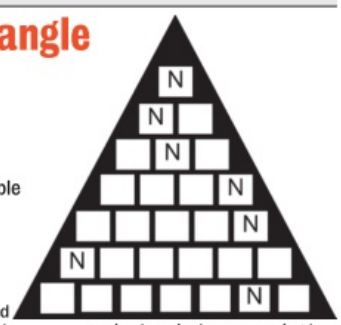
Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Arm of sofa is lower. 3. Back of sofa is higher. 4. Fingers are different. 5. Letter on shirt is smaller. 6. Picture frame is different.

Riddler

Unscramble the words below, then take the letters from each word as instructed to form another word that is the answer to this teaser: CTZAE Take letters 1 & 2 NRTO Take letters 1 & 2 GPI Take letter 1 Unscramble the letters you collected... what do you get?

Alpha triangle

1 One of the poles
2 Nah
3 Plastic Band
4 Earth's satellite
5 Stupid person
6 Deceased (2 ,4)
7 Insulin, for example

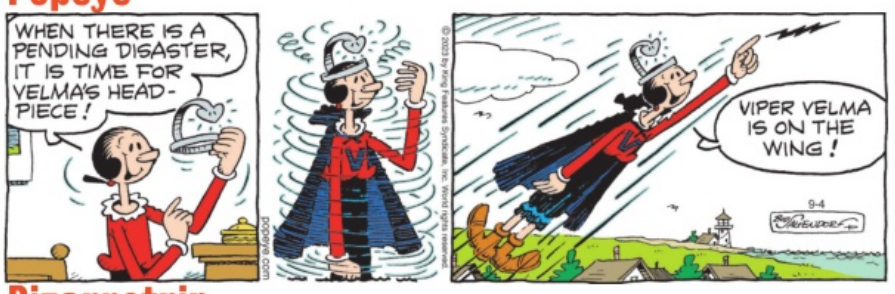


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



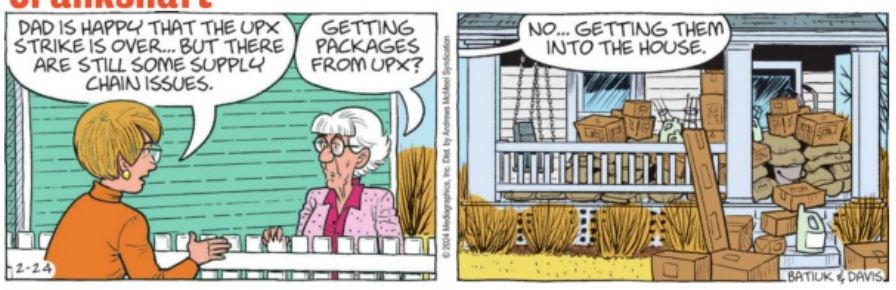
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

DAD, YOUR MOM IS KINDA INTENSE. AND STRICT.
YEAH... SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.
THAT'S WHY I SEE MYSELF AS A HANDS-OFF PARENT.
MAYBE A LITTLE TOO HANDS-OFF...
SPIT!

Crankshaft


DAD IS HAPPY THAT THE UPX STRIKE IS OVER... BUT THERE ARE STILL SOME SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES.
GETTING PACKAGES FROM UPX?
NO... GETTING THEM INTO THE HOUSE.

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel dissatisfaction; you may not be able to take on your responsibilities. Your investments may cause you some losses. You are advised to read documents carefully before signing them. Elderly health may make you upset. You may plan to reconstruct your house, but it is advised to postpone renovation for a while.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be busy at work, your network may be increased, and with its help, you are likely to get a big order in terms of business or work. You are likely to start innovating in partnership. You may get some investments in your business, which will increase your business in the near future. Your emotional relationship with your spouse will improve.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be busy with your family, and you may feel happy to enjoy time with family or friends. You may expect some new sources of income, which may boost your financial health. You may control your expenditures on worthless stuff. You may buy some worthwhile things, which may increase your social status.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, an elder's blessing may help you, and you may try to improve your patience. You may now refocus on achieving your goals. You may perform well in terms of business and domestic life. There may be some balance between expenditures and savings, and it may boost your savings.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be dissatisfied; you may feel lazy and dull, which affects your current speed of the project or work in terms of delay. Lovebirds are advised to avoid any important decisions in terms of marriage. Job seekers may be disappointed in terms of interviews.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, your internal power may make you happy; you may make short-term gains in terms of investments. You may have a good relationship with your boss. You may have some promotions, and your prestige in society may increase. You may also expect some work-related travel.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be blessed by the moon. You may get a high position after your hard work. Your performance in the work may be improved. You may also meet some influential people who may give you a good direction to improve your life. You may manage your domestic issues very easily, which may boost harmony in domestic life.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be happy, and things may be somehow better. You may plan to visit some religious place; it may give you inner strength. You may also donate money to a religious place or to charity. You may expect some overseas travel in terms of education or work. Couples may find a suitable match. Singles are likely to find a soulmate.

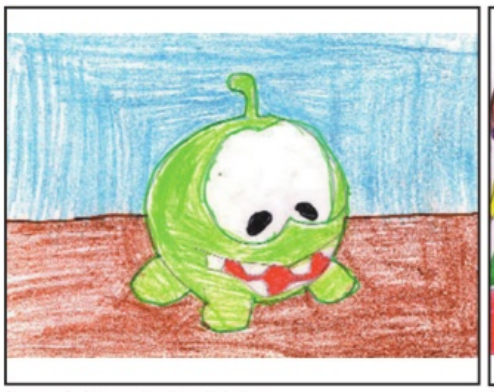
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may feel unhappy and dull, which affects your way of working, and there may be some delay in the completion of your projects. It may affect your prestige in your professional and domestic lives. It is advised to avoid adventure tours or rush driving. Lovebirds may break up. Job seekers may be disappointed in terms of a new job.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel positive vibrations around you. Things are under control now, and you may plan to start a new business as a partnership. You may expect some long-distance travel as well. You will have faith in your spouse, which will bring harmony to your domestic life.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may perform your best in the office. You may have a good bond with the boss, and you may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. You may get good incentives for your work as well. Chronic health issues may be cured now. Disputes with the siblings may be resolved now. A job seeker may find a new job.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, kids' education may make you busy; you may plan for their higher studies as well. Couples may hear good news in terms of kids. You may want to update yourself and make some plans for higher studies to get promoted in your current job. Singles may find their soulmate. Natives related to education, consulting, and banking will do better.

KIDZONE



Chetana C, 6 Years, Kendriya Vidyalaya

Anunita, 6 Years, Delhi Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
[3^(3/2)*3^(5/4)] / [3^(7/4)]
= 3^ (11/4) / 3^(7/4)
= 3^(4/4) = 3

QUOTE UNCODE
If you can laugh together, you can work together.

STRIKE OUT

R	E	E	L	E	D	■	I	B	E	R	I	A	■	Y
H	X	■	R	■	N	N	A	■	E	■	D	■	■	■
O	■	E	A	N	S	■	A	B	D	U	C	■	E	■
M	■	T	■	M	A	N	Y	■	S	■	P	■	■	■
B	Y	E	■	N	O	S	E	■	S	E	N	T	■	■
S	■	R	A	C	K	S	■	J	A	D	E	S	■	■
■	A	■	V	O	Y	A	G	E	D	■	B	■	■	■
Y	O	K	E	S	■	I	N	S	E	T	■	E	■	■
A	C	E	R	■	F	L	A	T	■	A	G	A	■	■
M	■	E	■	D	O	S	S	■	R	■	T	■	■	■
M	A	L	A	V	A	■	H	E	A	R	S	E	■	■
E	■	E	M	S	■	A	■	E	■	R	■	■	■	■
R	I	D	E	R	S	■	C	U	D	D	L	Y	■	■

FAST FIVE

S	P	A	S	M
T	E	N	N	O
I	N	I	O	N
F	A	M	E	D
F	L	A	K	E

RIDDLER
Topaz: GTZAE Take letters 1 & 2 - AZTEC, take A,Z. NRTO Take letters 1 & 2 - TORN, take T,O. GPI Take letter 1 - PIG, take P. Unscramble the above to get 'Topaz'.

QUICK

R	O	D	S	■	P	H	Y	S	I	C	A	L	■	■
A	■	R	■	A	■	M	■	O	■	A	■	■	■	■
C	H	A	P	T	E	R	S	■	D	A	R	N	■	■
S	■	W	■	R	■	U	■	S	■	E	■	■	■	■
O	M	K	A	R	■	A	D	A	G	I	O	S	■	■
■	■	W	■	E	■	K	■	■	■	R	■	■	■	■
S	T	A	I	N	S	■	L	A	D	I	D	A	■	■
E	■	N	■	S	■	■	■	V	■	■	■	■	■	■
P	E	R	S	I	S	T	■	O	P	E	N	S	■	■
A	■	E	■	G	■	S	■	D	■	K	■	■	■	■
R	I	D	E	■	A	M	M	O	N	I	A	C	■	■
C	■	N	■	R	■	A	■	R	■	I	■	■	■	■
S	O	U	A	N	D	E	R	■	A	S	A	N	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
22 and 26 should be interchanged.
In both sequences, add the last digit each time to obtain the next number.

BULL'S EYE
effort, fief, fife, fire, fore, tiff, FORFEIT, fort, forte, fret, offer, refit, rife, rift,

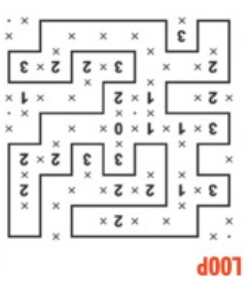
SUDOKU

6	2	5	8	4	3	9	1	7
8	3	1	6	7	9	2	4	5
7	9	4	2	1	5	3	8	6
2	7	9	4	8	6	5	3	1
4	6	3	1	5	7	8	9	2
1	5	8	3	9	2	7	6	4
5	1	2	9	3	4	6	7	8
3	4	7	5	6	8	1	2	9
9	8	6	7	2	1	4	5	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, No, Ono, Moon, Moron, No more, Hormone.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 6 + 8 – 3 = 18
Medium
5 – 9 + 9 x 6 = 30
Hard
9 – 8 – 5 + 9 = 5

LOOP



KAKURO

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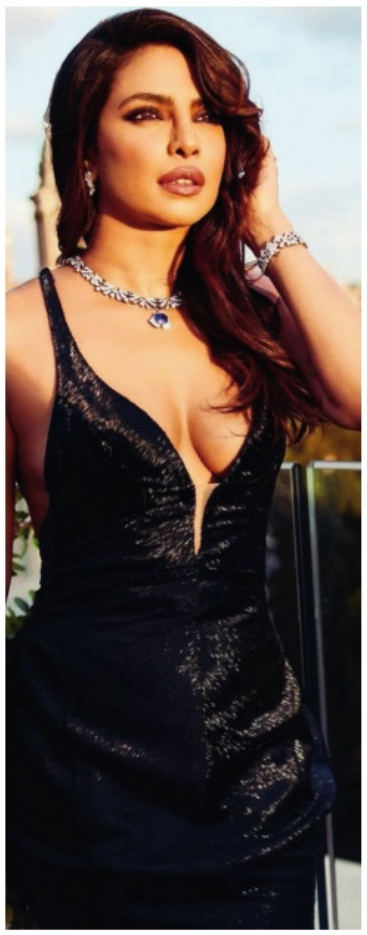
D-Day special— Steven Spielberg's D-Day epic "Saving Private Ryan" will be shown in around 300 French cinemas on June 6, the massive World War II operation's 80th anniversary

PeeCee & her travel buddy



Actor lands in Australia for shoot along with daughter

Actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas headed to Australia for the shooting of her upcoming film 'The Bluff' with her 'best travel partner', who is none other than her daughter Malti Marie.

Taking to her Instagram handle, Priyanka treated fans with a glimpse of her travel journey with Malti.

The video features a breathtaking view from a plane window while touching down in Australia.

Priyanka's daughter can be seen enjoying the view at the airport.

Then the actor focused the camera on herself. She is seen wearing a brown overcoat, cap, and shades. Priyanka next switched the camera to Malti, who is seen leaning on her mother's arms "Touchdown..The Bluff. With the best travel partner ever," she captioned the post.

'The Bluff, directed by Frank E Flowers. Set in the 19th century Caribbean, The Bluff follows a former female pirate (Priyanka) who must protect her family when the mysterious sins of her past catch up to her, as per Deadline.

The movie, produced by AGBO Studios and Amazon MGM Studios, is directed and co-written by Frank E. Flowers. This will be Priyanka's second project with The Russo Brothers after she starred in their Amazon Original series 'Citadel'.

Priyanka recently wrapped shooting for the highly anticipated film 'Heads Of State'. It is an upcoming action comedy featuring Idris Elba, John Cena, and Jack Quaid in key roles, under the direction of Ilya Naishuller.

Priyanka also announced her new film in collaboration with the production team of Barry Avrich's new feature documentary 'Born Hungry' as a producer. — ANI

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

By chance

Kaleem Pasha aka Kamalraj from RT Nagar, who played the lead in the recently released movie Suit is over the moon about the response to the film.

"I was waiting at a coffee shop to meet my friends to discuss business matters. I met director SG Bhagat Raj based on a friend's suggestion. I was quite surprised when the director told me I am suitable to play the lead. My acting in Suit is by default and also luck by chance," says Kamalraj. When asked why he changed his name to Kamalraj, he said he was a fan of Dr Rajkumar and Kamal Haasan. "I changed my name as Kamalraj because I wanted to continue as a hardcore fan of Dr Rajkumar and Kamal Haasan. They are my inspiration. I was doing real estate business in Dubai and associated with theater for eight years," he said.

He said he was very happy with the success of his maiden movie. "Many prominent personalities, including Priyanka Upendra, director Om Sai Prakash, and Randeep Hooda, have appreciated my performance in the movie Suit. I did not take many takes during the shooting of the movie Suit," he claimed.

Learning on the job

Agastya has been busy with the post-production of his maiden movie Maarige Daari, which he has directed and in which he plays the lead. The first look teaser of the movie received good response and also created immense curiosity among the movie buffs.

"I am making my debut as a director as well as a hero in Sandalwood with this movie. I have not gone to a film institute. I learnt the basic skills of direction by watching movies directed by Real Star Uendra and veteran director Puttanna Kanagal. I have also attended a few movie shootings to know how it is done," said Agastya.

He said that watching movies was his passion since childhood. "Apart from directing and playing the lead, I am one of the producers of this movie. My friends have joined hands with me to bankroll this movie," he said.

He said Maarige Daari is about how an innocent and amiable youth becomes violent in society. "The movie has all elements including love, sentiment and action. Its shooting was held in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mandya, Hassan, Hoskote and Varanasi for 65 days. As of now, the post-production work is in progress," he said.

The movie features Agastya, Mahalakshmi, Cockroach Sudhi, Vardhan, Pradeep Poojari, Benaka Nanjappa, and Bala Rajwadi.

Har Safar Banao Aasan

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